

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification and abstract for grammatical and general readability purposes. Due to the number of changes made, a substitute specification and abstract are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed is a marked-up copy of the original specification and abstract showing the changes incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract.

I. Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that the claimed “processing level judging means” must be shown in the drawings. By this amendment, Applicant has removed the above-noted feature from the claims. Accordingly, Applicant kindly requests that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that the structural relationships between the elements of the claims must be described. In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicant has amended the claims so as to describe the structural relationship between the elements recited therein.

In addition, the Examiner notes in the paragraph spanning pages 4 and 5 of the Office

Action that it is unclear what the difference is between the "processing level judging means" and the "arbiter". By this amendment, Applicant notes that the claims have been modified so as to remove the phrase "processing level judging means" so as to eliminate any potential confusion.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-7 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if amended so as to overcome the above-noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-7 are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is kindly requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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